

8th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parent Survey

Thank you to all parents who responded to the parent survey. We had a very positive response and are currently reviewing the information and comments that were provided. We will send out an overview of the outcomes in January once we have finished our analysis of the results.

Uniform

With the weather turning colder, it is important that students remain warm. They can wear a grey V neck jumper under their blazer. Students can wear coats between lessons and at break and lunch. Please remind students hoodies cannot be worn in school.

Student Achievement

I was pleased to meet with the following students this morning to congratulate them following their nomination for student achievement:

John Richardson	Year 7	Go Karting success
Oscar Neave	Year 9	Winning design for the Christmas Card
Oscar Darvell Green	Year 13	BFI Film Academy Success

The following four Year 12 students helped a Year 7 student who was working in the library and was having difficulty. The parent emailed the school asking for their thanks and congratulations to be passed onto the four concerned.

Jamie Bell, Jake Eley, Oliver May and Miller Shaw

Year 8 Career Networking Events

Last week our Year 8 students took part in one of two mornings where they had the opportunity to meet and engage with a wide range of different companies and employers. The main hall was buzzing with activity as students moved round in groups to each stall. We were hugely grateful to all the representatives who came in to talk to the students about their careers and opportunities within their sectors. The students were fantastic and really made the most of the experience, asking lots of questions and using the morning to also reflect on their own emerging skills. Outreach workers from Herts Services for Young People were also on hand both mornings to talk to students about youth services and projects in the local area. We look forward to holding similar events again in the future.

Planetarium Experience

On Thursday the Physics Department welcomed around a hundred students from local primary schools to Richard Hale School to come and experience a planetarium. The experience was delivered by representatives from the Bayfordbury Observatory, part of the University of Hertfordshire, and gives the students an immersive journey through the solar system, our galaxy and the known universe. The experience also included a meteor crashing into the Moon which produced screams of excitement every time. The students all came out

of the experience super excited, enthused and with so many questions – such as “how did the sun start and how did it get up there?”. The day ran very smoothly and the feedback from the primary school and university staff was excellent including a number of positive comments about the outstanding conduct of our Richard Hale boys around the school. The event was organised alongside Presdales School in partnership with the Ogden Trust and this is the first of many physics and science enrichment projects we have planned over the next few months and years which will provide opportunities for our Richard Hale Students to get involved in promoting physics and STEM subjects.

Football

Recent Cup results/upcoming fixtures are below:

County (last 16)

Year 7 A play St Michaels on 15th December
Year 7 B play Dame Alice Owen on 9th December
Year 8 lost to The Bishops Stortford School 6-1
Year 10 Knights Templar on 9th December
Year 11 play Queens on 11th January
1st XI beat Marlborough 4-2

National (last 16)

Year 7 lost to Northampton Boys School 5-1
Year 11 beat Ravens Wood 6-1 to reach ¼ final
Year 11B will play Shenfield in the new year

Year 7 football tournament

Year 7 also entered 3 teams into the Broxbourne 9-aside tournament. On a freezing afternoon on Wednesday, 30 boys played some brilliant stuff and worked really hard. The standard and depth of football within Year 7 is exceptionally pleasing. More opportunities to represent the school will continue after Christmas.

Anti-Bullying Poster Campaign

The annual anti-bullying poster campaign has now been completed as part of anti-bullying week. There were over 250 entries across various year groups. The winning design has been placed in each teaching room throughout the school. Pictures can be found via our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Results were as follows:

1 st	Ellio Carubia
2 nd	Leo McCarthy Malone
3 rd	Will Fox

Bentley Care Home Music Concert

Last Thursday some students went to Bentley care home to perform some music to the residents. They behaved immaculately and put on a fantastic performance enjoyed by all. Afterwards, the students had each donated a wrapped up box of chocolates to be handed

out by Father Christmas among the residents who were overjoyed. To thank us, they even sang We Wish You a Merry Christmas in return which was a lovely and touching moment. A fantastic experience for all involved spreading a little kindness and Christmas cheer.

Christmas Lunch

A reminder that Christmas Lunch takes place in school on Tuesday 20th December. Meals should be purchased in advance from the catering team in the dining hall and cost £3.50. Free School Meals students will be automatically included. There will be no other food available to purchase at lunch time on that day so students who do not wish to have Christmas Lunch will need to bring in food from home instead.

Junior Ski Trip – February 2023

Four places for this February's junior ski trip to Claviere in Italy have become available at short notice. The trip is available to current members of Years 8 and 9 and takes place during February half term (Friday 10th to Saturday 18th February 2023). No previous skiing experience is necessary and the cost of the trip is £1,100 which would need to be paid in full by the beginning of February. If you would like to apply for one of these places, please email wisepay@richardhale.co.uk by midday this Monday. If we receive more applications than there are places available, a ballot will be conducted on Monday afternoon.

For students who already have places on the trip, please look out for an email next week which will contain further details and arrangements about the trip, including dates for a parents' information evening and dry slope sessions at Gosling.

School Closure Notification System

Should we have to close the school due to bad weather, a message will appear on our Website www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk as soon as the decision has been made and we will also notify parents via the SIMs Parent App. Please note this will only happen if the school has to close, no message will mean that the school is open as usual.

Letter from Jim McManus, Director of Public Health

Dear Parent,

Increase in Scarlet Fever and Group A Streptococcus (GAS) cases

I am writing to update you of a recent national increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which is above expected levels for the time of year. I have also previously written to all schools and early years settings across Hertfordshire regarding this matter and will be writing again with advice and guidance.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs and symptoms of scarlet fever. Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include

- a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with
- a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel which is rough to the touch

- On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will still have a rough, sandpapery feel.

Please Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called group A streptococci. These bacteria also cause other respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo.

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). While still uncommon, there has been an increase in invasive Group A strep cases this year, particularly in children under 10 and you will have seen the recent media reports of some tragic deaths as a result of iGAS. Sadly, Deaths do occur each year due to iGAS however this year has seen a slight increase which could be related to the increase in scarlet fever cases. Page 2 of 2 www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Currently, there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating. The increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

There are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, children can on occasion develop a bacterial infection on top of a virus and that can make them more unwell.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Good hand and respiratory hygiene (cough and sneeze into tissues and washing your hands regularly) are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and

sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

We wrote to Schools and early years settings such as nurseries in September to advise them of Scarlet Fever and GAS, and advise on actions to take. I am writing to them again today with further information and advice.

Yours sincerely Jim McManus Director of Public Health

Survey on behalf of Watton Parish Council

We have been asked to share the survey below about the 390 bus which runs from Stevenage to Ware via Watton At Stone and Hertford. The Parish Council are trying to improve the service and are asking for comments from parents who use it. We have confirmed with the Parish Council that this survey is a valid survey and any replies will be anonymous.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUVaN9a8AIOWtwO8cQ86noEXEV0soJDKz9ekMpu36yiiZB9w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Ian Hawkins
Headteacher

December 2022 Calendar

Thursday 8 th	Christmas Concert, All Saints Church
Monday 12 th	Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams start – end 20 th December
Thursday 15 th	Year 12 Geology Trip – Natural History Museum
Friday 16 th	Sixth Form and Staff Christmas Jumper Day
Saturday 17 th	ABRSM Music Exams
Tuesday 20 th	Christmas Lunch Senior Presentation Evening
Wednesday 21 st	Founders Day & White Gloves End of Term, school finishes 12.30

January 2023 Calendar

Monday 9 th	Spring Term begins
Tuesday 10 th	Flu immunisations Years 7 – 9 (provisional date)
Monday 16 th	Year 13 Mock Exams week Year 11 MFL Mock Speaking Exams week
Friday 27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day

Weeks

Monday 12 th Dec	Week 2
Monday 19 th Dec	Week 1
	Christmas Break
Monday 9 th Jan	Week 2

Monday 16 th Jan	Week 1
Monday 23 rd Jan	Week 2
Monday 30 th Jan	Week 1

You are receiving this email because you have elected to receive the Headteacher's weekly newsletter from Richard Hale School. If you are no longer interested, please reply to this email with the subject UNSUBSCRIBE